

VIDEO SYNOPSIS: Fred Easker

Introduction by Lauri Freking, quoted below:

- :00 "What is art?"
- How does art reach us, and when it does, what does it say? Art has the power to reveal truths and transform the way we think. It can make us see ourselves more clearly and it can pull us deeper into the rich diversity of life. Art can heal individuals and communities. But it's not just the masterpieces housed in places like the Des Moines Art Center that have this power. In this program, we'll introduce you to four Iowa artists.
- Will their work have the power to move you?"
- Fred Easker**
- :50 Fred Easker is a Cedar Rapids artist who finds inspiration in the rolling hills of Northeast Iowa.
- The narration is in the artist's voice: He describes a great day consisting of getting into his truck in the morning, listening to public radio or CD's like Antonin Dvorak, the composer, and driving, with "the sun on my face."
- Mr. Easker can drive 300 miles without stopping. He takes photographs of a site and then comes home and sees if he has anything he feels like working with. He finds the "gently rolling" terrain to have a kind of energy that he picks up on. He describes the fields in autumn gently glowing, "phenomenal." He finds the character of the Iowa people to be similar, "understated," and you have to discover it.
- 2:27 There is a visual of Mr. Easker mixing his oil paints on a palette. He paints the edges of the canvas. Once he had a commission in which they asked that he not frame the work, but paint around the edges. The video shows him painting the edges of a canvas or wrapping the picture around the edge of the canvas.
- 3:08 The video shows a visual of a life-size painting of Mr. Easker's father in a postal uniform. Mr. Easker describes winning a prize at the Des Moines Art Museum for this piece.
- 3:40 This is a visual of a portrait of Easker's son when he was thirteen years old. Artistically, the painting is of interest because of the difficulty of getting the colors right with the light and shadows on the face.
- 4:37 He describes the decision he made to paint what he wished to paint, rather than following a trend. Visuals of several different paintings of his landscapes are shown.
- 4:50 Mr. Easker stands in front of a poster of a self-portrait by Grant Wood. There is a discussion of composition and breaking the rules a bit and the challenge of making a painting interesting while breaking the rules.
- 5:20 Mr. Easker describes and the visual shows a very large painting he did on commission for Ottumwa. He describes how he used a lot of contrast to allow the large painting to remain interesting.
- 6:00 He describes his paintings as being touchstones, so that people are "taken to" a place that is real or psychological. Art collector Bill Taylor describes opening a package on Christmas morning that contained a painting by Mr. Easker, and his emotional response to it, exemplifying how art can affect a person.
- 6:45 A visual of a camera closing in on and panning across a painting of a farmhouse and fields is shown. Mr. Easker says that people say they "see a Fred Easker" when they see Iowa landscape, which he likes, and it makes him feel he has an impact.
- Being an artist is "communicating with people," Fred Easker says.
- 8:13 End of Fred Easker section